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EXPEDITED PROCEDURE
ART UNIT 2131

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Masahiro Okada et al.
Confirmation No: 9209
Serial No. : 10/000,427
Filed : November 30, 2001
TC/A.U. : 2131
Examiner : A. K. Moorthy

Docket No. : 01-730
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

Sir:

In response to the Office action dated February 15, 2006, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire May 15, 2006, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on Page 15 of this paper.